

Serial No. 09/741,908

Attorney Docket No. 69.001

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining prices of electronic entity events for exchange transactions among parties in an electronic exchange, comprising:
 - receiving electronic entity events for exchange transactions between first and second parties serviced by a third party;
 - accumulating the electronic entity events into a collection of electronic entity events; and
 - dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing a servicing of the electronic entity events by the third party responsive to an electronic entity event pricing plan; and
 - outputting prices of the electronic entity events,
 - wherein there are plural different pricing plans,
 - wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherin the rules including the at least one rule can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an exchange transaction is determined from the outcome of the at least one rule using the exchange transaction corresponding to the electronic entity event as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify~~s~~specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,
 - wherein the rules are stored in a database,
 - wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the exchange transaction to correspond to the first party, the second party or the third party of the exchange transaction, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price~~the prices for the electronic entity event.~~

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2. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the event comprises one of a transaction with a good/service exchanged as part of the transaction, multiple transactions with goods/services, a product query, an advertisement review, transferring to another site, an exchange subscription fee, or a customer characteristic.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the pricing is responsive to relationships among buyers and sellers comprising negotiated customer specific rates and discounts.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said rules price the transaction across goods/services.

6. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the rules comprise conditional decisions.

7. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the rules comprise pricing calculation algorithms.

8. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the algorithms comprise one of single unit, double unit, taper discount, tier, tier discount, percent, flat, charge, minimum, maximum, accumulation, threshold, multi-unit or taper charges.

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9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic event has a transaction price and a good/service price.

10. (Canceled) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic event comprises multiple transactions.

11. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the pricing comprises detail pricing using pricing about one of the electronic entity events and summary pricing about the collection.

12. (Currently amended) A method associated with an electronic exchange which produces electronic exchange events for exchange transactions among parties in an electronic exchange, said method comprising:

receiving the electronic exchange events for exchange transactions between first and second parties serviced by a third party;

accumulating the electronic exchange events into a collection of electronic exchange events; and

dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing a servicing of the electronic exchange events responsive to an electronic exchange event pricing plan; and

outputting the prices of the electronic exchange events,

wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules can be including the at least one rule are shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path

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along the tree from the node for an exchange transaction is determined from ~~the~~an outcome of the at least one rule using the exchange transaction corresponding to the electronic exchange event as input, wherein the at least one rule ~~can specify~~specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the exchange transaction to correspond to the first party, the second party or the third party of the exchange transaction, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price for the electronic exchange eventthe prices.

13. (Currently amended) A method for determining prices of electronic exchange events for exchange transactions among parties in an electronic exchange, comprising:

receiving an electronic exchange transaction request;

accumulating electronic exchange transaction requests into a collection of electronic exchange transaction requests;

performing an electronic exchange function responsive to the electronic exchange transaction request;

dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing a servicing of electronic exchange events responsive to an electronic exchange event pricing plan; and

outputting prices of the electronic exchange transaction requests;

wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules

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including the at least one rule ar~~can~~ be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an electronic exchange transaction request is determined from ~~the~~an outcome of the at least one rule using the electronic exchange transaction request as input, wherein the at least one rule ~~can specify~~specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the electronic exchange transaction request to correspond to at least one of the parties of the exchange transaction, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate ~~a price for the electronic exchange transaction request~~the prices.

14. (Currently amended) A method for determining prices for exchange events among parties in an electronic exchange, comprising:

receiving electronic exchange events;
accumulating the electronic exchange events into a collection of electronic exchange events; and

dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing ~~a servicing of the electronic exchange events responsive to an electronic exchange event pricing plan having transaction pricing, cross product pricing, summary pricing and non-transaction pricing;~~ and

outputting prices of the electronic exchange events,

wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein ~~the rules~~

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including the at least one rule area can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an electronic exchange event is determined from the an outcome of the at least one rule using the electronic exchange event as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the electronic exchange event to correspond to the electronic exchange event, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price for the electronic exchange eventthe prices.

15. (Currently amended) A method for determining prices of electronic exchange events for exchange transactions in an electronic exchange, comprising:

receiving electronic exchange transaction requests;

accumulating the electronic exchange transaction requests into a collection of electronic exchange transaction requests;

performing electronic exchange functions responsive to the electronic exchange request and where the function comprises transactions exchanging a goods/services having a goods/services prices; and

dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing a servicing of the electronic exchange transactions transaction requests with detail and summary pricing using an electronic exchange event pricing plan responsive to relationships among buyers and sellers and comprising negotiated customer specific rates; and

outputting prices of the electronic exchange transaction requests,

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wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules including the at least one rule are can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an electronic exchange transaction request is determined from the outcome of the at least one rule using the electronic exchange transaction request as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the electronic exchange transaction request to correspond to the buyer or seller of the electronic exchange transaction request, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price for the electronic exchange transaction requestthe prices, and

where the rules in the pricing plan include pricing the transactions, pricing across the transactions, pricing across the goods/services, pricing with charge limitations and pricing non-transactions using conditional pricing decisions and pricing calculation algorithms comprising single unit, double unit, taper discount, tier, tier discount, percent, flat charge, minimum, maximum, accumulation, threshold, multi-unit and taper charges where the pricing is based on the collection.

16. (Currently amended) A system for determining prices of electronic exchange events for exchange transactions among parties in an electronic exchange, comprising:

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an electronic exchange handling electronic exchange events and accumulating exchange events into a collection of exchange events; and

a pricing mechanism configured for dynamically pricing a servicing of the electronic exchange events responsive to an electronic exchange event pricing plan where the pricing mechanism comprises a function pricing the servicing of the electronic exchange events based on the collection of the exchange events, and outputting prices of the electronic exchange events, wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules including the at least one rule are can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an electronic exchange event is determined from the an outcome of the at least one rule using the electronic exchange event as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the electronic exchange event to correspond to the electronic exchange event, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price for the electronic exchange eventthe prices.

17. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein said pricing mechanism comprises a code-based pricer and non-code based rules used by the pricer to price the event.

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18. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage controlling a computer by medium comprising instructions being executed by a computer, the instructions including a computer-implemented method for determining prices of electronic exchange events, the instructions for implementing the steps of:

accumulating electronic exchange events into a collection of exchange events, and dynamically and automatically pricing a servicing of the electronic exchange events responsive to an electronic exchange event pricing plan where the pricing is based on the collection of the exchange events, and

outputting prices of the electronic exchange events,

wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules including the at least one rule are can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an electronic exchange event is determined from the an outcome of the at least one rule using the electronic exchange event as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the electronic exchange event to correspond to the electronic exchange event, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price the prices for the electronic exchange event.

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19. (Currently amended) A method for determining prices of electronic entity events for exchange transactions among parties in an electronic exchange, comprising:

receiving electronic entity events for transactions;

dynamically and automatically, by a computer, pricing a servicing of the electronic entity events responsive to an electronic entity event pricing plan where the pricing is based on a collection of the exchange transactions; and

accumulating exchange transactions into the collection of exchange transactions; and

outputting prices of the electronic entity events,

wherein there are plural different pricing plans,

wherein each pricing plan includes a decision network, wherein the decision network is a tree, wherein a node of the decision network includes at least one rule, wherein the rules including the at least one rule are can be shared among the plural different pricing plans, wherein a path along the tree from the node for an exchange transaction is determined from the an outcome of the at least one rule using the exchange transaction as input, wherein the at least one rule can specify specifies use of the collection to determine the outcome of the at least one rule,

wherein the rules are stored in a database,

wherein the pricing includes selecting the pricing plan for the exchange transaction to correspond to the exchange transaction, traversing the decision network in the selected pricing plan, and executing the rules in the traversed path through the decision network to calculate a price for the electronic entity eventthe prices.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection specified by the rules is the accumulated exchange transactions accumulated over a time period.

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21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection specified by the rules is the exchange transactions accumulated before the electronic entity event.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one rule further ~~can specify~~specifies aggregating a field in the electronic entity events in the collection, wherein the aggregated field is used to determine the outcome of the at least one rule.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
after accumulating an electronic entity event and after the pricing, modifying the pricing plan,
after the modifying, performing the pricing for the electronic entity event using the modified pricing plan.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the decision network is graphically displayed as the tree, wherein the nodes are graphically displayed as folders which include the rules.

25. (New) The method of claim 1,
further comprising receiving other electronic entity events for exchange transactions between other parties,
wherein buyers and sellers define respective corporate structures to specify the other parties, and

wherein the rules comprise volume discounting based on the electronic entity events for the first party or the second party of the exchange transaction and the other electronic entity

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events for the other parties in the respective corporate structures of the first party or the second party.